

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 01527 211641Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 /096 W

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R 211457Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4870

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 1527

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIA AND IEA

REF: VIENNA 918

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PAGE 02 VIENNA 01527 211641Z

FOLLOWING ARE CURRENT PRIMARY GOA PREOCCUPATIONS ON KEY IEA

ISSUES:

1. DECISION ON WHETHER TO JOIN FINANCIAL SUPPORT FUND AND SAFETY NET STILL PENDING. PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT GOA WILL JOIN BUT NOT WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM. FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIALS FEEL THAT AUSTRIA WILL NOT DERIVE ANY BENEFIT FROM JOINING FUND AND THAT PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARIES WOULD BE ITALY, UK, AND PERHAPS FRANCE. IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF FUND IN CONTEXT OF ACHIEVING CONSUMER SOLIDARITY AND GENUINE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN ENERGY FIELD.

2. REGARDING SECRETARY'S MINIMUM PRICE PROPOSAL, GOA MINISTRIES ARE STILL STUDYING SUBJECT. FOREIGN MINISTRY IS CONCERNED THAT MINIMUM PRICE WOULD SET IN MOTION SIMILAR PROPOSALS FOR OTHER RAW MATERIALS AND BASIC COMMODITIES ("SPIRIT OF DAKAR"). FINANCE MINISTRY FEELS THAT MINIMUM PRICE WOULD BE EASY TO ACCEPT FOR LARGE COUNTRY LIKE US WHERE IMPORTS PLAY LESSER ROLE IN TOTAL OIL CONSUMPTION, WHEREAS COUNTRIES HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON IMPORTS WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN ADJUSTING TO A FIXED MINIMUM PRICE SITUATION.

3. REGARDING PREPCON FOR CONSUMER/PRODUCER MEETING, GOA APPEARS TO HAVE MOVED AWAY FROM ITS EARLIER CONCERN ABOUT BEING REPRESENTED BY EEC. GOA WILL BE FLEXIBLE ON QUESTION OF REPRESENTATION ALTHOUGH OFFICIALS STRESS THAT IT IS NOT REALLY FEASIBLE FOR ONE COUNTRY TO REPRESENT ANOTHER. MAIN GOA POLICY CRITERIA FOR PREPCON IS THAT REPRESENTATION SHOULD NOT PREJUDICE FUTURE AUSTRIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE CONSUMER/PRODUCER DIALOGUE. HUMES

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